

SUFFOLK-NANSEMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 1255

Suffolk, Virginia 23434

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The May Meeting The May meeting of the Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society will be held Tuesday, May 28, 1968, at 8:00 P. M., in the Municipal Court Room of the Municipal Building. We are very fortunate to have a speaker from Colonial Williamsburg. Mr. James F. Waite, a writer in the Architectural Records section, will deliver a slide-illustrated talk on Williamsburg with emphasis on the major expansion of exhibition buildings which will open this July in the Historic Area. Mr. Waite will also have copies of the latest President's Report on the exhibition expansion and he will pass these out to those who attend. I have seen this booklet and it is very nice. It contains some very beautiful full page pictures of Colonial Williamsburg. I feel that everyone would like to have one, so please plan to attend.

Publication The Publication Committee is pleased to announce that our first booklet, "Record of Farms and Their Owners In Lower Parish of Nansemond County, Virginia", by Dr. William Turner Jordan will go on sale at the next meeting of the Society, May 28, 1968. The price will be \$2.00. The Committee has put in a lot of hard work on this booklet and hopes that the members of the Society will help make the sale of this booklet a huge success.

Indian Committee Mr. Jim Byrd, chairman of the Indian Committee, has ask me to announce that there will be a meeting of this committee later this week. The exact time and place will be announced in the newspaper. Mr. Byrd wants to formulate plans for our next dig. We have a very good site which we can work on all this summer, as the owner has agreed not to plow this field this year. Please watch the newspaper and plan to attend as we would like to make this a very successful dig.

1890 George C. Moser was employed by the town to draw plans for a new city hall. The ground was broken for this three story brick building on July 28, 1890.

Fire Horses At one time, around the turn of the century, the fire department, located on the corner of North Saratoga and Market Streets, had three horses to pull the equipment to the fires. The names of the horses? Tom, Dick, and Harry.

Milner's by W. E. MacClenny This colonial town, known on the old



maps of the county as Milner's Town, was situated on the Western Branch of the Nansemond River, about ten miles north of Suffolk. A tobacco warehouse was located there in the early days, with an inspector in charge. There was a toll road built through Nansemond, Isle of Wight and Southampton counties, crossing the Blackwater River at Blackwater bridge, and the Nottoway at what is now Courtland, then Jerusalem, to Hicksford, now Emporia to facilitate the transportation of produce from those sections to the Nansemond wharves by the widow Scott's and the widow Norfleet's, and then it divided one branch leading to Suffolk and the other to Milner's Town. Other bridges over the Nottoway were authorized the same year to let the trade through the county to the Nansemond River. A large trade was carried on at this place and her merchants became wealthy. Vessals came there to discharge and load. When they came light they brought rough stone for ballast, and some of this can still be seen in the vicinity. The town continued to thrive until the Revolution, when it was burned by the British. One Revolutionary battle was fought in the vicinity, between the British and the Virginia Militia, and the British were driven across the Western Branch at Milner's, perhaps using the bridge that had been authorized by Act in 1772 to draw trade to the town. November 1, 1780, 250 British soldiers marched to Milner's and burned it to the ground.

After the Revolution, efforts were made to revive the trade of the place and the town, yet it finally began to dwindle until about the only thing now left is the ruins of one dwellings and the cemetery of the ancient town.

Matthey Harris, a Thomsonian doctor, was from Milner's and moved to Sussex County, Virginia, and became the first man to raise peanuts on a commercial scale. From that the industry has grown to what it is today in the South.

Edited by\*\*\*\*\*H. R. Gray, Jr.

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